

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 06320 01 OF 02 081117Z
ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01
/032 W

-----011284 081133Z /13

P 080940Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9146

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 6320

STADIS//////////

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: AODE

SUBJECT: EVALUATION BY CHIEF OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: STATE 201122

1. MALAYSIA IS A SMALL, PROSPEROUS DEVELOPING COUNTRY AT THE HIGHER END OF THE DEVELOPMENT SCALE. IT IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, RECOGNIZING BOTH OUR IMPORTANCE TO MALAYSIA AS A MARKET AND AS A SOURCE OF CAPITAL, AND THE IMPORTANCE TO THE REGION AS A WHOLE OF A STRONG U.S. PRESENCE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC. AT THE SAME TIME, MALAYSIA CAREFULLY PRESERVES ITS NON-ALIGNED, THIRD-WORLD STANCE AND CONSCIOUSLY AVOIDS DEVELOPING AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. THUS, A RELATIVELY LOW U.S. DIPLOMATIC PROFILE SERVES OUR INTERESTS WELL HERE, AND I BELIEVE THE RECORD SUPPORTS THIS JUDGMENT. US-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT AND, OVERALL, DEPEND MORE ON WASHINGTON DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ON MATTERS OF GREAT CONCERN TO MALAYSIA (E.G., COMMODITIES, NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES) THAN ON THIS POST'S SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES. THUS, IN MY JUDGMENT, THIS MISSION CAN ADEQUATELY REPRESENT THE U.S. WITH A RELATIVELY SMALL STAFF AND WITH A FEW, HIGHLY SELECTIVE, FOCUSED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUALA 06320 01 OF 02 081117Z

ACTIVITIES.

2. I UNDERSTAND THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE STATE DEPARTMENT ELEMENTS OF THE EMBASSY HAVE UNDERGONE A SERIES OF CUTS, THE LATEST OF WHICH IS THE REDUCTION OF THE POLITICAL SECTION BY ONE POSITION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE STRENGTH AND NUMBER OF OTHER AGENCIES REPRESENTED HERE HAVE INCREASED, REQUIRING

ADDITIONAL STATE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. IN ADDITION, OUR COMMERCIAL AND CONSULAR WORKLOADS CONTINUE TO GROW, INCLUDING IN EAST MALAYSIA, WHERE THE ABSENCE OF A CONSULATE IN KUCHING MAKES ADEQUATE COVERAGE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. I INTEND OVER THE MONTHS AHEAD TO SEEK WAYS TO INTEGRATE MORE CLOSELY THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT ELEMENTS, AND TO STREAMLINE REPORTING.

3. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, I DO NOT BELIEVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT ELEMENTS OF THIS EMBASSY SHOULD UNDERGO ANY FURTHER CUTS IN FY 78. I DO NOT RULE OUT FURTHER STATE CUTS IN FUTURE YEARS, BUT I STRONGLY BELIEVE WE MUST FIRST REDUCE OTHER AGENCY ELEMENTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE ESSENTIALLY DIPLOMATIC CONFIGURATION OF THE EMBASSY. THUS, THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS FOR CUTS IN FY 78 ARE BASED ON TWO MAIN CRITERIA: A) THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A PROPER CONFIGURATION OF THE EMBASSY'S STAFFING PATTERN, AND B) CURRENTLY FORESEEABLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRIMMING FUNCTIONS AND POSITIONS:

4. USIS. THE PAO AND I AGREE THAT HIS AMERICAN STAFF CAN BE REDUCED BY ONE POSITION IN FY 78. WITH THE ENORMOUS GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS IN MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND MASS MEDIA, MALAYSIANS HAVE READY ACCESS TO AMERICAN FILMS, TV PROGRAMS, NEWS SERVICES, ETC. IN WAYS AND EXTENT FAR BEYOND WHAT WAS AVAILABLE, SAY, TWENTY YEARS AGO; GROWING NUMBERS OF MALAYSIANS ARE EXPOSED TO THE U.S. THROUGH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 06320 01 OF 02 081117Z

ACADEMIC STUDIES; AND THERE ARE INCREASING COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN MALAYSIANS AND AMERICANS. THUS, EXPOSURE TO THE U.S. HERE IS GREAT ALREADY AND STILL GROWING IN MANY AND VARIED WAYS. MOREOVER, THE PAO BELIEVES--AND I AGREE--THAT USIS SHOULD FOCUS ON FEWER, HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS THAN IS CURRENTLY THE CASE. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT ONE AMERICAN POSITION CAN BE CUT, AN THAT WITH THE RESULTING RESTRUCTURING OF THE PRESENT STAFFING PATTERN, USIS' CENTRAL INFORMATION AND CULTURAL FUNCTIONS CAN BE MAINTAINED WITHOUT SERIOUS IMPAIRMENT. FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, WE RECOMMEND THE ABOLITION OF ONE POSITION ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEXT DEPARTURE OF A USIS OFFICER (MARCH 1978) AND THAT AT THAT TIME THE INFORMATION, CULTURAL AND OTHER FUNCTIONS BE SUITABLY REDISTRIBUTED AMONG THE PAO AND OTHER REMAINING OFFICERS.

5. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THIS OFFICE SHOULD BE REDUCED BY ONE POSITION IN FY 78 IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS PROPER PROPORTION WITHIN THE EMBASSY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PAST REDUCTIONS IN OTHER ELEMENTS AS WELL

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 KUALA 06320 02 OF 02 081109Z
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P 080940Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9147

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 6320

STADIS//////////

FROM AMBASSADOR

AS CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATED CUTS. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT, WHO POINTS OUT THAT SUCH A CUT WOULD INVOLVE CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRING DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON. I URGE THAT SUCH CONSIDERATIONS BE REVIEWED AND THAT THE NECESSARY DECISIONS BE TAKEN. MY OWN SUGGESTION IS NOT TO REPLACE THE NEXT DEPARTING OSA OFFICER AND TO RESTRUCTURE FUNCTIONS ACCORDINGLY.

6. PEACE CORPS. I HAVE DISCUSSED FUTURE PC/M PROGRAMS WITH THE PC/M DIRECTOR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. AS A RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, AND AS A RESULT OF ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY PC/M TO STREAMLINE ITS OPERATIONS, I AM PERSUADED THAT, BY THE END OF FY 78, THE REDUCTION OF THE OVERHEAD PC/M STAFF IN KUALA LUMPUR BY ONE WILL BE POSSIBLE. MY OWN RECOMMENDATION, WHICH THE PC/M DIRECTOR POINTS OUT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON, IS TO COMBINE THE POSITIONS OF ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR WITH THOSE OF ANOTHER STAFF MEMBER ON THE DEPARTURE OF ONE OF THE INCUMBENTS, NOW SCHEDULED FOR FY 78.

7. OTHER U.S. ELEMENTS AND AGENCIES. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER U.S. AGENCIES REPRESENTED IN KUALA LUMPUR (DEPART-
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUALA 06320 02 OF 02 081109Z

MENT OF AGRICULTURE, INTERNAL REVENUE, DEA, DOD, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION), SOME OF WHICH ARE HERE ONLY OR PRIMARILY BECAUSE

OF SINGAPORE'S STRICT CEILING REQUIREMENTS (I.E., AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, IRS). THE PRESENCE HERE OF THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND OF THE IRS OFFICE, ALONG WITH THIS EMBASSY'S REGIONAL SECURITY AND BUDGET AND FISCAL OFFICERS WHO ALSO SERVICE SINGAPORE, REQUIRE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THE DIFFICULTY IN CONTEMPLATING ANY CUTS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. THE POSITIONS OF THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND IRS REPRESENTATIVES SERVE LARGELY REGIONAL U.S. INTERESTS RATHER THAN BILATERAL ONES. WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY THEREFORE WISH TO CONSIDER HOW SUCH POSITIONS MIGHT BE TREATED IN THE EVALUATION DESCRIBED REFTTEL.

8. CONCLUSION. IN SUM, I RECOMMEND THAT IN FY 78 THIS EMBASSY ABSORB ONE POSITION CUT EACH IN USIS, OSA AND PEACE CORPS. IN ADDITION, THE FUNCTIONS OF THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND IRS REPRESENTATIVES ARE PRIMARILY REGIONAL IN NATURE. WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY THEREFORE WISH TO CONSIDER HOW SUCH POSITIONS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE CURRENT EVALUATION.
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